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(54) **Hard particles, wear resistant iron-based sintered alloy, method of producing wear resistant iron-based sintered alloy, valve seat, and cylinder head**

(57) Hard particles are provided containing 20 to 70% of Mo, 0.5 to 3% of C, 5 to 40% of Ni, 1 to 20% of Mn, a balance in Fe, and impurities, where % represents percentage by mass, and may further contain at least one of 40% or less of Co, 0.1 to 10% of Cr, and 4% or less of Si. A wear resistant iron-based sintered alloy contains 4 to 30% of Mo, 0.2 to 3% of C, 1 to 20% of Ni, 0.5 to 12% of Mn, a balance in Fe, and impurities, with respect to the total mass of the iron-based sintered alloy as represented by 100%. In the sintered alloy, the base

contains 0.2 to 5% of C, 0.1 to 12% of Mn, a balance in Fe, and impurities, with respect to the total mass of the base, and the hard particles contain 20 to 70% of Mo, 0.5 to 3% of C, 5 to 40% of Ni, 1 to 20% of Mn, a balance in Fe, and impurities, with respect to the total mass of the hard particles. The hard particles are dispersed in the base with an area ratio of 10 to 60%. A method to produce a wear resistant sintered alloy of the above composition is also provided.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 12 7432

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			C22C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 December 2003	Examiner Schruers, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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*This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82